



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 323-807

Email: [talbor@usaid.gov](mailto:talbor@usaid.gov)

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

## PRESS RELEASE

### Macedonian companies chosen to implement U.S.-funded plastic recycling project

Seven Macedonian companies and one non-governmental organization have been selected to implement the first phase of a plastic recycling project supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

The companies are: AGRO PAL, Tetovo; EKO-ERAS, Veles; AGROSTANDARD, Skopje; EUROTREJD, Skopje; TONIDEJ, Kumanovo; EKOPET, Kumanovo, and the Roma Information Agency (RIA), Skopje. SONCEV RID-KRATOVO, Kratovo, a non-governmental organization, has also been selected.

This pilot project seeks to increase the recycling of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), one of the most common forms of plastic used for bottling beverages. More than 10,000 tons of PET waste is generated annually in Macedonia.

The principal objective of the project is to foster the initiatives of enterprises that have indicated a strong interest in recycling, and in implementing new and effective techniques to increase recycling and improve the natural environment in Macedonia.

The project provides grants or equipment and working capital for the eight organizations identified through a competitive selection process. The grants total \$80,000. The project also will provide consulting services to the identified entities as they develop promotional campaigns and organize activities for the collection and recycling of PET.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>